

Update on the Accreditation Handbook

August 2009

Overview of this Report

This report provides an update on the work to revise the *Accreditation Handbook* for discussion and input. The item contains three chapters that were updated by staff to include edits identified by COA members at the August meeting and to reflect implementation of the revised accreditation system during the 2009-10 year and thereafter.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the COA discuss and adopt the proposed changes to Chapter 8: Accreditation Decision Options, Chapter 9: Follow Up, and Chapter 10: Accreditation Site Visit Team Information. Staff, furthermore, recommends that the COA direct staff to post the adopted Chapters 8, 9, and 10 and bring additional updated chapters of the Handbook to the January 2010 COA meeting for approval.

Proposed Changes to Three Chapters of the Accreditation Handbook

During the May 2009 COA meeting, members and staff discussed the need to update the *Accreditation Handbook* to reflect the revised accreditation system. The COA directed staff to prepare one or more chapters for COA review and adoption at each subsequent meeting until the entire Handbook was updated and adopted. Edits for chapters 8, 9, and 10 were identified that conform the chapters to current accreditation practices so that the chapters will be useful for accreditation review teams as they consider accreditation decision options (chapter 8), for institutions as they prepare to respond to a COA accreditation decision (chapter 9), beginning in the Fall of 2009-10, and for members of accreditation site teams as they participate in accreditation activities (chapter 10).

The revised Chapters 8, 9, and 10 will be provided as an in folder item.

Next Steps

Consistent with directions provided to staff at the May 2009 COA meeting, staff will continue to revise chapters in the *Accreditation Handbook* and will bring proposed revised chapters to the COA for its approval at future COA meetings.